

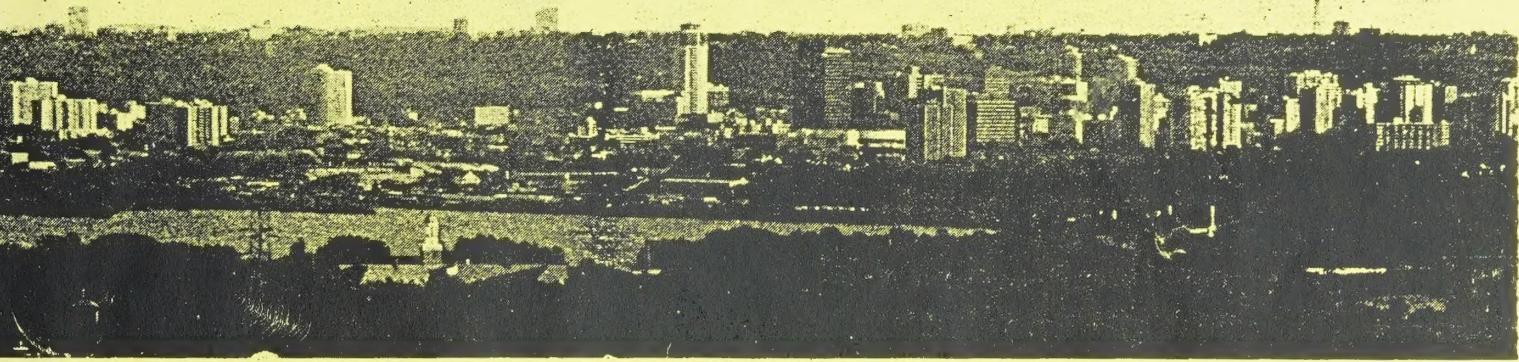
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Implementing Vision 2020



Detailed Strategies
and Actions
Creating A
Sustainable Region

January, 1993



The Regional Chairman's Task Force on Sustainable Development
The Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth.



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Detailed Strategies and Actions
for
Creating a Sustainable Region

Prepared for
The Regional Municipality
of
Hamilton-Wentworth

by

The Regional Chairman's
Task Force on Sustainable Development

January, 1993



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1.0 Introduction

This document is a companion to the first report "*Directions for Creating a Sustainable Region*". The purpose of this document is to identify for Regional Council the actions which can be taken to achieve the community stated in **VISION 2020: The Sustainable Region**.

Over the last three years the members of the Task Force and citizen participants have discussed and brainstormed a number of ideas for implementation. Thoughts and issues discussed have ranged from light and noise pollution to maintaining the cultural diversity of our community.

Given the range of interests, represented by members of the Task Force and the high level of citizen involvement, it is not surprising that not everyone agreed about everything. There are a number of ideas raised over the last three years which are not in this report. Although every thought received consideration by the Task Force, this report represents a consensus among members about what the majority of people participating in the public outreach programme would like to see change in Hamilton-Wentworth.

Over 300 recommendations for action are presented in this report. If implemented over the next 30 years by elected officials, community agencies, business, and citizens these actions will result in a Hamilton-Wentworth based on the principles of sustainable development.

The report is organized according to the same topic and sub-topic headings contained in the first report "*Directions for Creating a Sustainable Region*". Under each topic are the goals, strategic directions and actions to achieve the strategic directions.

2.0 The Landscape

2.1 Natural Areas and Corridors

GOAL:

To develop a system of interconnected protected natural areas, which provides for the growth and development of natural flora and fauna and, where appropriate, provides access for all citizens of Hamilton-Wentworth.

STRATEGY:

Identify the desired system of connected natural areas

- Establish a process for public discussion on what Regional Official Plan policies are needed to:
 - designate the natural core areas, natural corridors, and natural connecting links;
 - limit or prohibit human activities that may have a negative effect on the natural areas;
 - identify appropriate recreational and other land uses; and
 - define what is meant by carrying capacity and what parameters are involved.
- Develop, maintain and make accessible to the public, a database and mapping system which identifies and describes Hamilton-Wentworth's desired system of natural areas, corridors, and linkages.

STRATEGY:

Develop joint responsibility and coordination between agencies

- Establish a partnership between agencies, such as, the federal Fisheries Department and Wildlife Service, provincial ministries, the Conservation Authorities, and other public and private groups and organizations, for the purpose of funding the identification, research and description of natural areas to be protected.
- Establish a "Natural Areas Coordinating Committee" to arrange agreements between agencies on research needs and protection measures and aim to eliminate overlap, redundant activities, and establish cost sharing agreements.

STRATEGY:

Purchase properties to be part of the system of protected natural areas

- Establish an acquisition fund for the purchase of natural areas. The terms of reference for this fund should include:
 - a commitment by the Region to contribute a substantial amount to the fund on an annual basis;
 - a commitment to seek matching funds by other agencies, such as, the Ontario Heritage Foundation, Nature Conservancy, and Conservation Authority Foundations and/or other groups, such as, the Bruce Trail Association and the Naturalist Club which participate in public fund raising efforts;
 - a priority to purchase natural areas adjacent to the existing built urban area which are subject to development pressure; and
 - a stipulation that the purchase of properties will not involve expropriation but be based on the principle of willing seller/willing buyer.
- Investigate the options associated with title and purchase arrangements, such as conservation easements, to complement and enhance the proposed acquisition fund.
- Investigate the possible use of development charges for the purchase of natural areas and/or development of related facilities.
- Encourage the Area Municipalities to use the 5% park dedication in the Planning Act for the acquisition of space needed as part of the network of natural areas, natural corridors, natural connecting links, and trail systems.
- Request that Revenue Canada change the tax laws to eliminate the assessment of capital gains on donations of land to public agencies and private community based land trusts and allow the full 100% tax deduction currently enjoyed by donors of Canadian cultural heritage objects.
- Request the Provincial government to broaden the Conservation Land Tax Rebate program, so that land designated by municipalities under the Planning Act is eligible.

STRATEGY:

Educate people about importance and value of protecting natural areas

- Request the local Conservation Authorities to develop a program of public information and education which illustrates the relationship between the desired system of natural areas and people's interests.
- Encourage the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Conservation Authorities to develop a landowner contact program which will encourage private stewardship of natural areas and provide requested expertise and assistance to landowners.
- Request McMaster University and Mohawk College to establish an advisory committee involving the Region and other relevant agencies, to provide advice and guidance to students interested in researching the natural areas of Hamilton-Wentworth.
- Support the establishment of a scholarship for ecological research, to be administered through the Conservation Authority foundations.
- Request the local school boards to increase the local natural heritage component of their curriculum, and encourage them to participate with other agencies, such as, conservation authorities, in the development of the curriculum. Request the Hamilton Naturalists Club to adapt the Natural Areas Inventory project documents to provide a basis for development of this curriculum.
- Establish a program to monitor ecosystem integrity throughout the natural areas by perhaps designating one or more long term ecological monitoring sites.
- Establish a detailed protocol for the preparation of environmental impact statements to ensure a complete review of possible ecological effects and to provide additional information to the natural areas database.

STRATEGY:

*Promote the Natural
Wonders of the Region as a
Tourist Attraction (Eco-
Tourism)*

- Develop a program to advertise and promote the natural features, such as, the escarpment, harbour, waterfalls, flora and fauna.
- Direct a program to increase people's awareness about the natural wonders of the Region and encourage local residents to spend their vacations at home visiting the natural wonders of Hamilton-Wentworth.
- Attract new business development to Hamilton-Wentworth by developing a program emphasizing the high quality of life offered by access to the Region's natural wonders.

2.2 Improving the Quality of Water Resources

GOALS

To ensure the water quality in streams, creeks, Cootes Paradise, Hamilton Harbour, Lake Ontario and other surface bodies is generally good, that the water is clean and clear and that swimming is a safe activity.

To identify and eliminate all significant sources of potential chemical contamination by the year 2000.

To reduce the combined municipal water use of households and businesses by 50% by the year 2000.

To restore adequate habitat for fish and birds to a level necessary to restore the populations to a healthy and productive state.

To ensure the quality of groundwater throughout the Region is suitable as potable water and as a pure recharge source for surface waters.

To ensure that water quality is not effected by run-off and sedimentation due to changes in the landscape.

STRATEGY:

Reduce water consumption

- Continue distribution of household kits on water conservation.
- Encourage homeowners and industries to reduce water consumption through actions, such as, retrofitting and changes in consumption practices and habits.
- Continue and complete by year 2000, the process of metering all water users in Hamilton-Wentworth.
- Investigate charging a fee for water which reflects full cost accounting, including both capital and operating costs.
- Investigate implementation of new regulations requiring all new construction to make use of high efficiency fixtures (eg. low flush toilets and low flow shower heads).

STRATEGY:

Restore and protect natural habitat

- Cooperate with local Conservation Authorities and the Ministry of Natural Resources in using land acquisition, stream rehabilitation projects, land use controls and other policy tools to protect and enhance Hamilton-Wentworth's streams and fish habitat.
- Encourage the Area Municipalities to place a greater emphasis on stream/fisheries protection when preparing storm water management programs and land use plans.
- Investigate and when feasible implement sub-watershed planning in cooperation with the Area Municipalities, Conservation Authorities, Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Natural Resources.
- Adopt land use policies to control development in stream valleys and along streams.
- Establish vegetated stream buffers protected from development.
- Work with the local Conservation Authorities to acquire lands in stream valleys.
- Develop a landowner contact program to encourage landowners to maintain vegetative buffers alongside creeks, streams and reservoirs.
- Lobby the Province to alter the property tax structure to provide an incentive to landowners to maintain properties as naturally vegetated landscapes.
- Establish, in cooperation with the Area Municipalities and local Conservation Authorities, more naturalized storm water management systems which improve infiltration rates and reduce heavy storm water flows and associated erosion and sedimentation.
- Support efforts to restore marshes in Cootes Paradise and the Hamilton Harbour.
- Avoid wherever possible the channelling of streams and creeks into concrete or other artificial aqueducts, sewers or ditches.

- Encourage sound erosion control practices through firm planning with engineering restrictions on activities in the Region's watersheds, such as, grading and construction.
- Promote techniques to increase ground infiltration of water.

STRATEGY:

Protect the groundwater resources of Hamilton-Wentworth

- Prepare a groundwater resource management study to provide the following information:
 - delineation and evaluation of the hydrological, geological, chemical, and geographical attributes of the Region's groundwater resources by the year 2000.
 - identification of existing and potential threats to groundwater resources (eg. residential development, landfill sites, and industrial practices).
 - an analysis of existing groundwater protection policies and an evaluation of protection policies used in other municipalities.
- Develop Official Plan policies to ensure lots created by severance or subdivision in non-serviced areas have sufficient land available to accommodate private services and to provide adequate dilution of effluent.
- Develop Official Plan policies for the protection of water recharge areas.
- Develop policies and strict enforcement regarding the installation, and maintenance of septic systems and water supplies.
- Lobby the Province to change appropriate legislation pertaining to wells and that abandoned wells be appropriately plugged. A well should not be put into use until a use permit is issued signifying the well construction meets Provincial standards.
- Include an environmental fee in development charges levied in unserviced areas which would be used exclusively for remediation purposes of degraded groundwater resources.

STRATEGY:

Eliminate use of chemicals and potential contamination

- Phase out the use of pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals in care of Regional properties.
- Develop and implement a policy on the maintenance of Regional properties, requiring low maintenance ground cover and ecological landscaping.
- Encourage the Area Municipalities and Conservation Authorities to phase out the use of pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals.
- Develop an education program for the general public identifying the environmental effect of domestic use of fertilisers, weedkiller, pesticides, septic system cleaners, drain openers, root killers, and so on.
- Identify for the general public alternatives to using chemicals.
- Encourage other levels of government, businesses, and farmers to reduce the amount of chemical they use for care of property.
- Identify, in cooperation with local industry, mechanisms for transport, recycle, reuse and disposal of chemicals.
- Expand program for disposal of household hazardous waste and chemicals.

STRATEGY:

Make the waterfront and harbour accessible, safe and protect as a supply of water

- Support the implementation of the Remedial Action Plan for Hamilton Harbour.
- Undertake the necessary capital improvements to Woodward Sewage Treatment Plant needed to meet the restrictions, identified in the Remedial Action Plan, on loadings into Cootes Paradise and Hamilton Harbour.
- Develop a ship decontamination lock to guard against zebra mussel type infestations.

- Encourage the Royal Botanical Gardens, the Canada Centre for Inland Waters (Waste Water Technology Centre) and McMaster University to collaborate in the design and implementation of a natural plant filter bed project as a method of water purification.
- Ensure a system is in place to effectively deal with spills into the Harbour.
- Develop a plan for waterfront access to Hamilton Harbour that is compatible with recreational, as well as industrial uses of the Harbour.
- Investigate and implement when possible, new technologies for eliminating harmful and toxic contaminants from entering the Harbour.
- Continue program to monitor sewer use and enforcement of the Sewer Use Control Bylaw.
- Continue construction of the combined sewer overflow reservoirs.
- Integrate planning, decision making and implementation on a watershed basis, to maintain and restore desired water quality.

STRATEGY:

Establish coordination and cooperation

- Lobby the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to expand programs and initiatives to reduce the impact of farm practices on ground and surface waters.
- Employ a user pay approach for water services and required upgrades for new developments.
- Develop formal and informal mechanisms to coordinate the efforts of all agencies, industries, businesses, and government bodies towards the achievement of a common goal on water quality.
- Request the local Conservation Authorities to develop a community consensus on the desired quality and quantity characteristics of our surface waters.

2.3 Improving Air Quality

GOALS:

To ensure the Region has the best air quality of any major urban area in Ontario by the year 2000, as determined by the Ministry of the Environment.

STRATEGY:

Eliminate all sources of air pollution

- Establish a comprehensive database, by year 2000, for monitoring the emissions of Hamilton-Wentworth's 500 largest companies and ensuring that they remain within established guidelines.
- Establish a comprehensive database, by year 2020, for monitoring the emissions of Hamilton-Wentworth's 2,000 largest companies and ensuring that they remain within established guidelines.
- Phase out the use of incineration as a method of waste management.
- Develop bylaws, in cooperation with the Area Municipalities, restricting the level of dust emissions from construction and landfill sites.
- Present an annual award to local companies that dramatically reduce emissions, or produce new technology capable of reducing air pollution, or in some other way improves local air quality and protection of the atmosphere.
- Provide funding for a chair at McMaster University in air pollution reduction technology.
- Investigate the development of a requirement that the granting of a commercial license to companies involved in repair or air conditioners and refrigerators, is contingent upon meeting Provincial/Federal standards.
- Lobby the Federal Government to develop more stringent domestic and international emission standards.

STRATEGY:

Improve the ability of the natural environment to absorb gaseous pollutants

- Prepare a community strategy for tree planting.
- Protect existing trees through the preparation and enforcement of a new Regional Tree Protection Bylaw.
- Establish as a goal and eventually as a requirement, a minimum amount of vegetation on each residential lot in Hamilton-Wentworth.

STRATEGY:

Improve the quality of indoor air

- Undertake an audit of all Regional Government offices, to ensure all reasonable efforts are being made to ensure a high air quality.
- Ensure all buildings are adhering to requirements of adequate fresh air exchanges.
- Introduce indoor plants and new filtration technologies into all buildings and offices operated by Regional Government.
- Encourage strict enforcement, by the Area Municipalities, of no-smoking bylaws.

2.4 Reducing the Amount of Waste

GOAL:

To develop and implement a comprehensive waste prevention and management plan with a focus on pollution prevention, and with a strategy consisting of three components, in order of priority:

- 1) the reduction of waste going to the curb and down the sewer;
- 2) the diversion of waste for reuse or recycling; and
- 3) as a last resort, the disposal of the remaining minute amount of waste after reduction and diversion.

To reduce and virtually eliminate hazardous waste.

STRATEGY:

Reduce the amount of waste

- Develop a comprehensive public education program that will:
 - enhance people's understanding of the costs and benefits of waste and waste reduction;
 - emphasize the importance of changing from a consumer ethic to a conserver ethic; and
 - promote acceptance of a user pay garbage collection system.
- Develop and implement a user pay garbage collection system.
- Develop a purchasing policy for all regional departments that requires the purchase of goods and supplies containing post consumer content.
- Encourage business, industry, and other levels of government to adopt the practice of product stewardship where the cost of waste management is internalized in the price of products and packages.
- Institute mandatory recycling.
- Organize a team of specialists to assist smaller companies in making their operations more environmentally sound.

STRATEGY:

Eliminate hazardous waste

- Enhance and increase the existing Regional programs for reduction and diversion of solid, liquid, and hazardous waste.
- Endorse, through Council resolution, the principle of virtual elimination of hazardous waste disposal.
- Encourage industries to sign a "virtual elimination good neighbour agreement" committing them to waste audits, zero discharge targets, and public consultation.
- Award tenders for Regional sewer, road and other types of work, only when it is verified that residues and debris will be brought to an approved site.
- Establish a regional waste exchange depot for the reuse and exchange of industrial by-products.

STRATEGY:

Identify contaminated sites and control development

- Encourage the Province of Ontario to either identify contaminated sites or provide adequate funding that would allow the Region to undertake this activity.
- Encourage the Province to develop a fund for the clean-up of contaminated sites.
- Require approval from the Ministry of Environment that a site, previously used for industrial, transportation or waste management, is not contaminated before approving an Official Plan amendment, zoning change, land severance or plan of subdivision/condominium.
- Encourage the Province to pass legislation requiring landowners to register any known contamination on the property title.

2.5 Consuming Less Energy

GOAL: To reduce the consumption of non-renewable energy sources.

STRATEGY:

Encourage reduced consumption of energy

- Purchase or lease the most energy efficient office space, capital facilities, machines, office equipment, and vehicles for the operation of Regional Government.
- Advertise the availability of grants from agencies, such as, Ontario Hydro, for energy efficiency retrofits in industrial/commercial buildings.
- Encourage the Province of Ontario to revise the building code, to require the use of high energy efficiency building materials and practices.
- Promote energy efficiency in new housing developments during the subdivision approval process (eg. ensure quick pedestrian access to public transit, encourage better solar orientation, and encourage use of vegetation to moderate climate).
- Encourage Hamilton Hydro and other electrical utilities to promote energy conservation and reduced consumption through actions, such as, using peak hour pricing for electricity, providing financial incentives to reduce consumption, and distribution of information about ways to reduce energy use.
- Encourage local libraries, media and other organizations to provide more information on non-polluting energy alternatives.

STRATEGY:

Use alternative fuels and energy sources

- Continue the conversion of public transit vehicles to natural gas.
- Develop a plan for the conversion of all Regional Government vehicles to alternative low or non-polluting fuels.
- Establish joint funding with other governments and agencies for an engineering research chair at McMaster University on solar energy, wind power, energy conservation strategies, and alternative energy sources.
- Encourage Mohawk College to establish a program whose aim is to provide training in use of alternative energy systems and the design and production of energy efficient buildings and equipment.

3.0 Our Communities

3.1 Land Use in the Urban Area

GOALS:

- To curb urban sprawl and suburban encroachment on to rural and agricultural lands.
- To encourage only that development which makes efficient, and economical use of infrastructure and services.
- To minimize the environmental, social, and financial costs of new development to the residents of Hamilton-Wentworth.
- To preserve the natural and historical heritage of the region.
- To encourage redevelopment of Hamilton's central core as the regional centre.
- To reduce commuting distances.
- To encourage, promote, and facilitate the everyday use of alternative modes of movement, such as, walking, bicycling, and public transit.

STRATEGY:

Define a new form to urban development

- Develop and incorporate into the Regional Official Plan a planned future urban development pattern which addresses the following desires:

- 1) Activity nodes or centres which: contain a range of residential, commercial, retail, industrial, institutional, and related employment opportunities appropriate to the centre's size and function; are relatively self contained communities; and contain a full range of housing so that people can live and work in the same community.
- 2) Corridors which connect the activity nodes should also operate as mixed use areas offering a various combinations of retail, residential, institutional and commercial in individual buildings and between buildings.
- 3) A network of linked green corridors and spaces, plus a designated green corridor along the boundary to the urban area.

- 4) Designated industrial-business parks when needed are considered part of the entire urban development area and a range of land use activities, including residential, industrial, commercial and institutional is allowed in these areas.
- Develop a servicing and transportation plan for the Region which reflects the desired urban development pattern.

STRATEGY:

Policies to encourage a mixed and compact urban form

- Review all existing and future neighbourhood and secondary plans to ensure they promote the integration of economic activities, a mix of people, a vibrant neighbourhood setting, and a sense of community.
- Encourage through appropriate Regional Official Plan policies a mix of employment, education, commercial, leisure, and residential land uses in every neighbourhood.
- Develop in cooperation with the Area Municipalities, an initiative to encourage increased residential development above commercial strips along transit corridors.
- Encourage a mix of housing types and the provision of affordable housing in every neighbourhood through continued implementation of the recommendations of the Chairman's Task Force on Affordable Housing.
- Encourage and permit work at home industries and small cottage type industries.
- Facilitate the development of the urban development pattern discussed earlier by providing fast, cheap, safe, and efficient public transit between activity nodes, and by providing appropriate municipal services to accommodate the desired development densities.

STRATEGY:

Establish a firm urban boundary

- Designate in the Regional Official Plan a geographic limit to urban development.
- Allow changes to the urban boundary only during the five year official plan review. The review should consider:
 - land development needs within a 10 to 15 year time frame;
 - a desired population density which supports a high level of public transit usage;
 - the financial, environmental, and social costs; and
 - a review of alternative development scenarios.
- Organize a community task force to guide the five year official plan review.
- Consider only changes which will occur in a manner consistent with efficient, economical provision of services and protection of agricultural land and natural areas.
- Extension of water and sewer trunk lines should occur only after certain level of population density is achieved (i.e. 4-6,000 people per sq. km.) in the existing built urban area.
- Endorse the Sewell Commission's proposal for legislation supporting the requirement for comprehensive review of urban boundary and designation review.
- Establish similar policies for rural settlement areas.

STRATEGY:

Direct all urban type development away from agricultural areas

- Eliminate all severances on agricultural lands by the year 2020.
- Limit and eventually eliminate expansion of rural settlement areas, rural estate developments, rural mobile home developments and other site specific amendments that permit urban land uses in rural areas.

- Eliminate severances on agricultural lands for retirement and families but provide alternatives through retirement communities, transferable development credits, or development in non-agricultural or natural areas land.
- Designate in the Regional Official Plan all prime agricultural lands (soil classes 1, 2, 3, and 4) as Agricultural Land Reserves to be protected through appropriate Regional Official Plan policies from non-agricultural intrusions.
- Explore mechanisms where area municipalities in Hamilton-Wentworth receiving the majority of urban development compensate rural municipalities for protecting agricultural and natural areas.
- Undertake a review of the mandate and operation of the Land Division Committee.

STRATEGY:

Provide for stability in the agricultural areas

- Develop an information system containing data on ownership, crops, soil capabilities and so on, which would be used for assessing agricultural and rural development proposals.
- Establish Anchor Farms along the urban boundary. Anchor farms would consist of a series of farms set up under long term lease arrangements with a farmer to live on and farm the land, creating a ring of viable farm operations around the urban fringe.
- Investigate a development credit system whereby farmers can sell development credits redeemable in designated urban development areas, either in vacant lots or an increase in development density.

STRATEGY:

Encourage and facilitate urban revitalization

- Encourage new business development to locate in the existing built urban area (eg. infill, redevelopment, and use of vacant buildings) as opposed to the vacant undeveloped suburban industrial business parks.
- Develop a program to help volunteer community groups to undertake environmental and neighbourhood clean-ups.

- Assist in community revitalization by making when appropriate, physical improvements to a neighbourhood (eg. roads, parks, and street lighting).
- Encourage redevelopment by locating municipal developments (eg. non-profit housing) in areas targeted for renewal.
- Prepare an information package for community groups, highlighting successful revitalization activities.
- Investigate and identify all tools and methods available to local government for encouraging redevelopment.

STRATEGY:

Revise development standards and regulations to reflect principles of sustainable development

- Undertake land use planning only after completing a detailed environmental analysis and infrastructure provision study.
- Develop a technical committee in cooperation with the Area Municipalities, to develop a comprehensive zoning bylaw which allows greater flexibility in terms of mixing of land uses and density of developments and is simplified to a maximum of ten categories.
- Incorporate into the approvals process a procedure to evaluate new proposals according to the principles of sustainable development (eg. road and landscaping design to minimize storm water run off, energy conservation, and opportunities for walking, cycling and public transit).
- Include in the review of neighbourhood and secondary plans and plans of subdivision an evaluation of:
 - walking distance to transit stops;
 - the location of all transit stops (including consideration for public safety);
 - walking distance to neighbourhood facilities and shops;
 - provisions made for cycling;
 - the construction of sidewalks and pedestrian walkways; and
 - needs of people with disabilities and protection for pedestrians from inclement weather.

- Include in the review of site plans an evaluation of:
 - provision for uninterrupted pedestrian access from sidewalk to building entrance;
 - accessibility for people with disabilities;
 - provision of parking and storage for bicycles;
 - provision of pedestrian amenities for protection from inclement weather;
 - public safety in both public and semi public areas;
 - location of transit shelters and other sidewalk furniture; and
 - location of building in relation to streetline.
- Organize an annual conference for municipal engineers on alternative engineering standards and implementing sustainable development.
- Investigate, in cooperation with the Area Municipalities, the design and development of street lighting that directs all light to the ground, instead of into people's homes and upwards into the sky.

STRATEGY:

Use financial tools to direct future urban development

- Revise the application of development charges to encourage redevelopment, intensification and development at higher densities. Development charges should:
 - be greatest for developments requiring new municipal services;
 - vary according to the type of development and reflect social and environmental costs (eg. low density development should pay a higher fee than high density development); and
 - be set in relation to a desired or optimum development density level (eg. developments below or above the desired density, defined in the neighbourhood plan, should pay a higher fee because it either makes inefficient use of services or will require additional services)
- Encourage the Province of Ontario to make appropriate revisions to allow property taxes to be charged in a similar manner as proposed above for development charges.
- Implementation of market value assessment is discouraged because it encourages urban sprawl.

- Encourage the Province of Ontario to remove barriers in the existing property tax structure which discourage rehabilitation of the existing building stock (eg. any home improvement costing more than \$5,000 results in a reassessment of the property).
- Request the Province of Ontario to revise the property tax system to allow municipalities greater freedom to use property taxes to direct urban development.
- Develop, in cooperation with the Province and Area Municipalities a revolving fund for provision of loans to people willing to invest in the redevelopment of geographic areas targeted for revitalization.

STRATEGY:

Ensure strong community involvement in the planning process

- Encourage the use of participatory research and planning in development of neighbourhood and community planning.
- Provide mechanisms to assist citizens in identifying and filling the needs of their neighbourhood.
- All neighbourhood and community action plans should be developed in consultation with citizens and these plans should identify actions and responsibilities.

STRATEGY:

Protect local historical resources

- Establish strong heritage policies for use when reviewing development/redevelopment applications.
- Prepare a Regional archaeological and heritage inventory and policy plan.
- Encourage adaptive re-use of heritage features.
- Utilize heritage attributes of the Region in the economic strategy.
- Prepare a Regional heritage strategy that includes an inventory of landscape, heritage and cultural attributes and opportunities.

- In cooperation with citizens, and property owners designate heritage conservation districts.
- Ensure Regional undertakings respect heritage of urban areas.
- Region will adaptively re-use heritage buildings.
- Ensure plans for local areas include heritage, culture, parks and open space.
- Institute a Regional legacies/bequests programme (property and cash) for the purposes of leisure, parks, open space, and culture.
- Identify and protect heritage and scenic landscape areas.

4.0 Getting Around

4.1 Changing Our Mode of Transportation

GOALS:

To develop an integrated sustainable transportation system for people, goods and services which:

- is environmentally friendly, affordable, efficient, convenient, and accessible;
- meets community needs;
- provides a level of service for people with disabilities which is comparable to regular public transit;
- provides for the safe movement of the public;
- considers safety in public spaces, through location and design of transit shelters, public walkways, bicycle paths and parking areas;
- provides access to all areas of the Region; and
- integrates public transit, bicycles, pedestrians, trucks and automobiles.

To encourage a shift in personal lifestyle and behaviour towards transportation choices that enhance personal health, fitness, save money, and with the lowest environmental effect.

STRATEGY:

Leadership by example

- Provide incentives to Regional Government staff to make use of alternative modes of transportation. Possible actions include:

- offer free transit passes rather than free parking;
- establish a matching service to encourage ride sharing, car pools and shared taxis;
- offer alternative modes of work hours, such as, "flexitime", compressed work week, job sharing, and telecommuting;
- provide mileage rates for bicycle use, the same as that paid for motor vehicle use;
- add bicycles to the fleet of municipal vehicles; and
- encourage business and other levels of government to adopt similar employee programs.

- Request the Province of Ontario to
 - implement a transportation fuel tax that is commensurate with the idea of full cost accounting (eg. maintaining the road network, environmental damage caused by extraction, refining, and consumption of fuel, and health care costs related to air pollution).
 - enact legislation requiring manufacturers of transportation vehicles and their component parts to be responsible for the disposal of their discarded products.
 - enact legislation which curtails the use of motor vehicles during high air pollution periods.
 - enforce emission standards for all motor vehicles.
- Investigate the use of road use fees (ie. road tolls for geographic areas, such as the regional centre) and using these fees for the development of public transit.

STRATEGY:

Reduce the number of single occupancy private motor vehicles making the home to work to home daily commute

- Request the Federal Government to change appropriate legislation to either make free employee parking a taxable benefit, or make free transit passes a nontaxable benefit or both.
- Ensure the costs of using public transit are significantly lower than driving and parking in the Regional Centre.
- Request the Hamilton Parking Authority to develop a parking management plan which includes:
 - reflects the actions needed to promote a sustainable transportation system;
 - development of parking at strategic location to link with public transit;
 - preferential parking and reduced parking rates for high occupancy vehicles;
 - a pricing structure which discourages all day parking while meeting the needs of other uses; and
 - limits to the amount of parking available in the regional centre.

- Request the Area Municipalities to allow trade-offs, such as, reduced parking requirements in new developments for provision of employee transit passes, promotion of car pools, and provision of bicycle parking.

STRATEGY:

Reduce the level of emissions

- Develop and enforce a bylaw restricting unnecessary idling of motor vehicles.
- Review, in cooperation with the Area Municipalities, the location of all stop signs (stopping and starting leads to significant increases in fuel consumption and emissions from engine exhaust, brake lining particles and particles from tires).
- Investigate ways of revitalizing the use of railway transportation as a means of moving goods.

STRATEGY:

Design and construct roads to facilitate the use and meet the needs of sustainable modes of transportation

- Require all regional engineers and planners to be knowledgeable about the sources and effects of planning/construction methods to reduce transportation related pollution.
- Make use of local products and companies in the construction and landscaping of local roads and streets.
- Design roads with the appropriate separation between pedestrian, cyclist, and motor vehicles according to the speed limits and volume of traffic.
- Adhere to provincial and national road design and safety standards.
- Provide a continuous network of arterial roads for:
 - efficient movement of vehicular traffic between activity centres;
 - convenient access to both the local street network and to the provincial highway system;
 - access from major provincial highways to Hamilton-Wentworth's urban area above the escarpment and to the Bayfront industrial area; and
 - the diversion of through traffic away from the Regional Centre and other major activity centres.

- Provide a basic network of truck routes to:
 - facilitate the efficient movement of goods both within the Region and to/from the Provincial highway system;
 - provide direct access to industrial areas within the Region; and
 - ensure limited effect on residential areas.
- Develop design standards for streets that match humans and human behaviour by:
 - dedicating lanes for bicycles and buses on major streets;
 - reducing the amount of and slowing private motor vehicle traffic; and
 - closing streets to motor vehicle traffic in areas of high pedestrian activity.

STRATEGY:

Develop a sidewalk/walkway system that provides for accessible, safe, convenient, and enjoyable pedestrian movement and meets the needs of all citizens

- Improve pedestrian enjoyment in high activity areas by:
 - reducing the speed of motor vehicles;
 - providing a distinct separation between pedestrian and motor vehicles;
 - developing pedestrian links (eg. plus fifteens);
 - providing pedestrian activated traffic lights;
 - identifying pedestrian crossings with changes in paving materials, signs, colors easily seen by the visually impaired, or built elements, such as canopies and arches;
 - providing a pedestrian refuge in the form of an island or median; and
 - ensuring unimpeded travel on sidewalks for people with disabilities (eg. place poles, posts, bicycle stands, and benches on boulevards; ensure there are no unexpected changes in levels of sidewalks; provide audible street crossings; and ensure snow clearance).
- Undertake an annual review of sidewalks to examine both pedestrian and vehicular traffic and determine the need for changes in provision of sidewalks.

- Ensure pedestrian safety by:
 - providing appropriate street lighting which lights the sidewalk;
 - developing highly visible and well lit walkways;
 - building sidewalks on both sides of the road;
 - continuing sidewalks through parking lots into shopping plazas, recreation areas and other public complexes;
 - building temporary sidewalks in newly developing areas;
 - ensuring sidewalks are wide enough to accommodate the level of pedestrian traffic;
 - constructing sidewalks out of materials selected for comfort and safety of all citizens;
 - ensuring sidewalk ramps are level with the road; and
 - eliminating the mountable curb.

STRATEGY:

Provide appropriate facilitates to encourage bicycling as an everyday mode of transportation.

- Continue implementation of the Region's Bicycle Commuter Network Study and Five Year Implementation Plan.
- Establish an extensive network throughout the urban and rural areas of the Region for both bicycle commuters and recreational riders.
- Review the placement and need of all stop signs along proposed bicycle routes.
- Encourage bicycle safety by:
 - encouraging the use of bicycle helmets;
 - enforcement of laws for bicycling; and
 - ensuring regular street cleaning.
- Ensure bicycle stands are available and placed appropriately in high activity areas.
- Link bicycles with the public transit system by investigating the use of bike racks on buses.
- Petition the Province of Ontario, GO Transit, and other agencies to assist in initiatives to encourage bicycling.
- Request the Area Municipalities to make revisions to appropriate zoning bylaws, to include a required minimum provision of bicycle parking and storage.

- Investigate and initiate methods for transporting bicycles on public transit vehicles.

STRATEGY:

Encourage the use of public transit as an alternative to the private auto

- Improve the level of public transit service to outlying communities.
- Investigate innovative forms of public transit, such as Paratransit operations with smaller vehicles for outlying areas.
- Develop a bylaw giving priority to buses when pulling away from bus stops into traffic.
- Create bus only and car pool only lanes for during rush hour.
- Establish dedicated traffic lanes for buses and bicycles.
- Integrate where feasible public transit and school transportation needs.
- Integrate Regional transit services with GO transit services to Hamilton-Wentworth.

STRATEGY:

Provide sufficient funding for public transit to ensure a high level of convenient, and attractive service

- Eliminate budget uncertainty, created by Area Municipalities changing their level of funding from year to year, by expanding the Urban Transit Area to include the entire urban area designated in the Region's Official Plan.
- Shift municipal spending on roads to public transit.
- Investigate the development of a transit levy.

STRATEGY:

Provide transportation services for people with disabilities that is equivalent to regular transportation services

- Develop and implement a long term plan for the integration of transit services for people with disabilities with the regular public transit services.
- Develop a comprehensive plan for making improvements to the regular public transit service that will result in service for people with disabilities equivalent to what is available to the general population.
- Investigate the purchase of buses that are handicap accessible and have areas convertible to handicap seating.
- Provide inter-urban public transit for people with disabilities.

STRATEGY:

Educate citizens about the opportunities and benefits of using alternative modes of transportation

- Develop a campaign, in cooperation with the various local bicycle committees, to promote the benefits of cycling.
- Make available all information on transportation accessible to people with disabilities through actions, such as, using large print, braille and audio tapes.

5.0 Quality of Life

5.1 Personal Health and Well Being

GOALS

To increase the number of years of good health for all citizens by reducing illness, disability, and premature deaths.

To develop cultural institutions that reflect our historical development and to encourage contributions from our increasingly diverse population.

To develop the social and physical environments that allow all citizens to participate fully in our community.

To ensure all levels of government are coordinated, efficient, effective and easily accessible to all citizens.

To develop a population that is literate, educated, possesses the skills of lifelong learning and supports the concept of sustainable development.

STRATEGY:

Provide Adequate and Appropriate Health Care Services for all Citizens

- Develop and implement, by 1995, a fully operational Community Health Status Information System along the lines of the Health Priorities Analysis Unit at McMaster (in keeping with the Ministry of Health Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines), that provides information on health status, social, economic and environmental indicators ("healthy community indicators") and has the capacity for needs assessment, monitoring and evaluation, as well as forecasting and modelling.
- Encourage the District Health Council to develop mechanisms to ensure that all existing and new health services are needs based.
- Provide education to providers, planners and consumers on the determinants of health and the importance of needs-based services.

- Participate in the Essential Regional Health and Social Research Project coordinated by the Health of the Public Project at McMaster University.
- Encourage the development, implementation and evaluation of models for the delivery of needs-based health and social services (possibilities include Community Health Centres, Comprehensive Health Service Organizations).
- Increase opportunities for non-physician health professionals (eg. dietitians, nurse-practitioners) to receive remuneration independently of physicians.
- Support the Province's Long Term Care Reform plan.
- Support enhanced rationalization of health services in the Region.
- Monitor and consider the implications for Hamilton-Wentworth of the phased devolution from the Province of responsibility for planning, coordination and delivery of health and social services (as proposed by the Premier's Council).
- Encourage integrated health and social planning in the region, to more effectively address the broad determinants of health (other than the health care system) and their relationship to healthy public policy.
- Support the development of a social contract between service institutions and their communities (Refer to the proposed Public Hospitals Act).
- Encourage the development, implementation and evaluation of models for health and social service delivery which provide financial incentives for professionals to increase health promotion and disease prevention activities.
- Support the development, implementation and evaluation of models for educating the public and the media on the broad determinants of health.
- Work with McMaster University and Mohawk College to improve education of health professionals in health promotion and disease prevention.

- Work with McMaster University and Mohawk College to increase the availability of continuing education courses on health promotion for family physicians, public health nurses and community developers.
- Support the full implementation by the Department of Public Health Services of the Ministry of Health's Mandatory Programs and Services Guidelines relating to health promotion and disease prevention.
- Work with research institutions in the Region (such as McMaster University) to increase health promotion and disease prevention research activity.
- Advocate for greater funding for research in health promotion and disease prevention from governments and other funding agencies.
- Ensure that health services are accessible physically (i.e. to people with disabilities), geographically, and culturally.
- Support the District Health Council in initiatives to work with the Province, and with multiple sectors in the Region, for the continuation of universal health care.

STRATEGY:

Mechanisms to facilitate the development of a caring community

- Ensure that social assistance payments, by 1995, cover the actual cost of necessary goods and services (food, accommodation, clothing, recreation, transportation and insurance) consistent with overall community standards of living.
- Institute legal mechanisms to protect workers's unpaid wages and benefits in the case of employment solvency, receivership or bankruptcy.
- Promote child-care strategies which support families including adequate child-care spaces in community facilities, and neighbourhood based parent/child resource programs, (e.g. toy lending services, parenting workshops, drop-in centres, and information and referral services) according to identified need.

- Promote employment strategies to balance work and family care responsibilities,(e.g. flexible working arrangements, leave with job security, reduced working hours with pro-rated benefits).
- Support the Department of Public Health Services in their efforts to fulfil the Mandatory Programs and Services Guidelines on Healthy Growth and Development.
- Develop, implement and evaluate innovative and specific school programs aimed at improving tolerance, cooperation and non-violent behaviour and reducing violent and aggressive behaviour.
- Support the growth of appropriate referral linkages between schools and community-based social services and agencies.
- Develop, implement and evaluate improved systems to monitor academic and personal development and to identify and respond to problems promptly.
- Improve the availability of before and after school care programs and parent education.
- Increase funding for teen and young adult recreation.
- Provide community based workers to help teachers, parents and children overcome the problem of school yard violence.
- Encourage occupational health and safety program development with grants and tax relief.
- Work with McMaster University and Mohawk College to improve education of health professionals in occupational health and safety.
- Provide support services and respite care for caregivers of Alzheimer's persons.

STRATEGY:

Improve personal health status

- Support the Department of Public Health Services and other community agencies in their efforts to ensure an accessible, affordable, nutritious and personally acceptable supply of food and safe drinking water for everyone.
- Ensure the provision of nutritious foods to preschoolers in group settings.
- Develop and ensure the implementation of food policies in all schools.
- Support community efforts to promote increased access to sufficient, nutritious and personally acceptable foods, such as community gardens, food coops.
- Support the development of food policies for all food premises.
- Work with the Province to ensure that social assistance payments are adequate to provide for sufficient, nutritious, and personally acceptable food.
- Ensure the elderly have transportation to food or food to them.
- Encourage and support women in their efforts to breast feed.
- Provide appropriate prenatal nutrition education to all women with special efforts made for high risk pregnancies.
- Ensure municipal water contains fluoride at levels no less than 1mg. per litre.
- Increase the proportion of adolescents who are adequately informed of social, psychological, ethical and medical implications of sexuality.
- Support the Department of Public Health Services in their efforts to implement Mandatory Programs and Services Guidelines.
- Provide smoking prevention curriculum in all schools.
- Enforce legislation prohibiting minors from purchasing tobacco.
- Provide smoking cessation programs in schools.

- Promote non-smoking in prenatal and postnatal classes.
- Provide smoking cessation programs in the workplace.
- Approve and enforce legislation to prohibit smoking in the workplace and in public places.
- License stores that sell tobacco and increase fines for selling to minors.
- Support the efforts of the Hamilton-Wentworth Interagency Council on Smoking and Health.
- Support the prevention efforts of the community eg) Hamilton-Wentworth Substance Abuse Community Action Group, Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week in November, PRIDE, Addiction Research Foundation, drug and alcohol education in all three Hamilton Boards of Education, Mohawk College and McMaster University.
- Support the treatment and support services available to people who recognize their drinking problem and for those coping with a lived one with a problem.
- Support the RIDE program.
- Support the recommendations in the report of the Hamilton-Wentworth District Health Council, (June, 1992), the "Addictions Services Study: Community Needs Assessment"; the recommendations together address health promotion, early identification and intervention, treatment and rehabilitation for healthy individuals and communities.
- Develop and support programs aimed at developing food purchasing and cooking skills targeted to the needs of various groups in the community eg. worksite programs, Supermarket Safari.
- Develop and support programs to promote healthy body weights in the community especially among vulnerable groups such as middle aged men and adolescent girls.
- Ensure the provision of reliable and appropriate nutrition education curriculum in all schools.

- Support the recommendations in the Mental Health Plan, Hamilton-Wentworth District Health Council, June 1992, and the I.D.E.A.L. Report, that address the well being of persons with mental health problems through housing, employment, social and recreational integration in the community.
- Support the recommendations in the report of the Regional Advisory Committee for the Physically Disabled, Long Term Care Subcommittee, (September 1991), the IDEAL Report - Integrating People with Disabilities into Every Aspect of Daily Living.

STRATEGY:

Educate citizens about the values and principles of sustainable development

- Develop a general public education campaign about sustainable development that:

- provides facts about the consequences of a behaviour/lifestyle, and its negative effect on the health of individuals and the community;
- provides information about what individuals can do, and how individual action can make a difference;
- provides a range of options, allowing individuals to change their behaviour, according to what is possible for them;
- provides incentives which reward responsible behaviour;
- makes use of role models who demonstrate what is possible;
- allows group participation (employee, students, community groups, families) in establishing realistic goals;
- allows for ongoing feedback and encouragement, including public assessment of results;
- incorporates activities that are focused at the community level through local citizen's organizations, neighbourhood groups, and personal contacts, and ongoing evaluation at that level;
- encourages the creation of coalitions among a diversity of public and private sector organizations to support a common objective;
- includes messages that foster public awareness and support for legislative changes aimed at mandating desired behaviour changes; and
- includes consistent messages that are delivered by a variety of public and community agencies.

- Encourage the local school boards to identify ways of incorporating sustainable development into their education curriculum.
- Provide training for local teachers on sustainable development.
- Provide awards for excellence in teaching the principles of sustainable development.
- Develop a program for introducing the concept of sustainable development to local organizations and how they can incorporate sustainable development into their operations.
- Provide awards of excellence to organizations who adopt the principles of sustainable development.
- Encourage our post secondary institutions to undertake research programs into methodologies and frameworks needed to prescribe policies and strategies for bringing about sustainability in our community.

STRATEGY:

Building community involvement and commitment

- Designate a region wide "Sustainable Development Week" during which activities focus people's attention on the issue.
- Encourage the local media to highlight neighbourhoods and community groups which exhibit the qualities of the desired sustainable community.
- Host design competitions or charettes.
- Prepare a presentation highlighting what Hamilton-Wentworth will look like if no change occurs and if the proposed directions are adopted and acted upon.

STRATEGY:

Increase the safety and security of our community

- Create rapid response teams to respond to domestic violence situations.
- Ensure the development and availability of an adequate number of emergency shelters for victims of family violence.

- Encourage greater police participation in neighbourhood planning.
- Ensure coordination between police activities and Block Parent and Neighbourhood Watch Programmes.
- Encourage the expansion of the street beat system.
- Encourage the expansion of the police beat program to local schools.
- Develop "safe planning" policies and programs, such as, street lighting, security systems, visibility, telephones, and immediate access to help, for local Official Plans, neighbourhood plans and operation of the public transit system.
- Provide crime prevention education at the neighbourhood level.

STRATEGY:

Support local cultural institutions and activities

- Encourage street level, spontaneous arts (street musicians, pavement artists, performers etc.).
- Create non-mainstream exhibit space and opportunities.
- Develop strong arts curricula in schools and at the post secondary level with links between artists, art organizations, and the schools.
- Encourage and financially support arts organizations in the Region.
- Attract artists from outside the Region through an arts centre with low rent studios, boutiques and galleries.
- Investigate ways to make the arts more accessible and affordable for a broader public.

5.2 Community Empowerment

GOALS

To allow all citizens from our diverse population the opportunity to have meaningful participation in government and in cultural, educational, health and social service/institutions.

STRATEGY:

Ensure active citizen participation in local government decision making

- Institute a selection process similar to jury selection to invite greater public participation in government committees.
- Re-evaluate the terms of reference of Regional advisory committees for inclusiveness and representativeness.
- Hold town hall forums at both area municipal and regional level.
- Develop and implement mechanisms to evaluate government activity and to hold it accountable to citizens of the Region.
- Enhance public access to and integration with Regional planning processes.
- Establish a coordinator's office for citizen action and outreach.
- Develop mechanisms to evaluate the Regional Official Plan, and to hold it accountable to citizens.
- Develop new community consultation models, such as, the Task Force experience, the healthy communities initiatives in British Columbia and Quebec, and the Oregon model for health planning.
- Encourage all local health and social service organizations and planning bodies to have, by 1995, (eg. the Hamilton-Wentworth District Health Council, the Social Planning and Research Council, the United Way, hospital boards and Children's Aid Societies) a balanced representation of providers and consumers.
- Develop advocacy mechanisms to ensure representation of the diverse population of the Region, particularly vulnerable groups.

- Strengthen cooperative partnerships among community based associations.
- Support the community development activities of the Social Planning and Research Council, the Department of Public Health Services, and other organizations to assist individuals and communities to become empowered.
- Continue to support a community information system among community based associations.
- Include a human services section in the Regional Official Plan.
- Establish a stakeholder committee to investigate the advantages and disadvantages of one tier government, and if warranted, change to one tier government for Hamilton-Wentworth.
- Develop community consultation guidelines to be followed by each Regional government department.

STRATEGY:

Revisions to structure and operation of municipal government

- Establish a community working group to examine alternative political structures (e.g. one tier municipal government, directly elected Regional politicians) which would provide incentives for bringing broad, long range perspectives to decision making.

STRATEGY:

Establish a sustainable community office

- Establish a regional sustainable community office with the mandate to:
 - educate, coordinate and liaise with all public and governmental agencies with respect to implementing sustainable development;
 - coordinate efforts with the four local Conservation Authorities to inform people of the objectives for the Region's watersheds and of the role they can play in achieving these objectives, through all schools, and through information programs of all types;
 - work with local business and industry to promote energy efficiency and conservation, and a transition to alternative energy sources
 - coordinate local efforts to ban ozone destroying chemicals;
 - educate citizens about air pollution and other environmental issues;
 - evaluate emission control policies utilized in other communities; and
 - work with local industry in developing emission reduction programs.
 - educate citizens about energy conservation measures, alternative energy use, high efficiency equipment and machinery and energy efficient building design.;

6.0 Livelihood

6.1 The Local Economy

GOALS:

To improve the ability of local business to compete both locally and globally and thus provide all citizens with an opportunity to have an income to meet, as a minimum, the necessities of life.

To increase the number of businesses that are non-polluting and those that actually produce quality of life products which control, reduce and prevent pollution.

To make Hamilton-Wentworth's labour force the best trained and adaptable in the world, in order, to ensure local business is competitive and innovative.

STRATEGY:

Develop a highly skilled & educated labour force

- Support the Hamilton Public Library's SkillSource project which makes available up-to-date information on training, education, and related government support programs.
- Develop a strong link between the Region's Economic Strategy and human resource development plans, such as, the Labour Market Constellation Network report "A Call to Action".
- Establish a community task force with the mandate to:
 - promote more effective, focused and coordinated training programs;
 - promote more involvement of the private sector in training;
 - recommend people to sit on the Local Training and Adjustment Board (LTAB);
 - assist in the process of establishing the LTAB; and
 - build upon and promote existing initiatives.
- Improve the links between education, training, business and other organizations by encouraging local business to adopt a school and be encouraging more involvement of local business in setting school curricula.

- Organize a committee of educators, business leaders, and citizens to recommend improvement to the education system, in particular, those identified in previous studies.
- Encourage the three local school boards to work together towards the elimination of duplication of costs and efforts.
- Develop a matching program, sponsored by groups, such as, the Chamber of Commerce, Employment and Immigration Canada, and the Region, where local workers, including those on unemployment insurance and social assistance, are matched with local business development initiatives.

STRATEGY:

Encourage individual enterprise and initiative

- Encourage the local school boards to include entrepreneurship and business studies in the context of sustainable development in their curriculum.
- Encourage educators and guidance counsellors to present business ownership and entrepreneurship as a viable career option.
- Encourage participation by students in entrepreneurial activities (eg. junior achievement).
- Request the expansion of cooperative education programs.¹
- Develop an advertising program, encouraging citizens to become entrepreneurs.
- Establish a program for assisting skilled employees in establishing their own business when the companies they work for close or reduce the size of their labour force.

STRATEGY:

Eliminate barriers to employment

- Encourage local employers to provide people with disabilities with appropriate personal and employment supports, such as, physical access, suitable work environment, transportation, and skills development programs.

- Develop, by 1995, programs to support gainful and meaningful employment for both low wage workers and employable persons with disabilities.
- Encourage local business to adopt practices, such as, child care, job sharing, job rotation and access and training for people with disabilities, that will permit freer access to employment for all citizens.

STRATEGY:

Support the local business community by making government assistance more available and responsive

- Open government information services outside normal business hours.
- Require local government staff and elected officials to visit local businesses on a regular basis.
- Allow the secondment of local government staff to, and work exchanges with, the private sector.
- Provide information packages on permits, business licenses, and grant applications.
- Organize information booths in local shopping malls and libraries.

STRATEGY:

Encourage locally owned and controlled business

- Provide small business start up assistance.
- Maintain a list of local investors and entrepreneurs who may be willing to provide funding for new ideas and business.
- Establish a community equity fund to fund small business start up.
- Establish a group or agency with the mandate to promote the substitution of imports by competitive local products. This group would:
 - match local suppliers with buyers;
 - sponsor trade shows with the theme of import substitution; and
 - educate local consumers on the benefits, such as, job creation and retention, of purchasing local products.

STRATEGY:

Raise awareness of business opportunities in the environment

- Issue, in cooperation with other Regions and the Ministry of the Environment, specific challenges and rewards for an environmental products competition.
- Host an annual sustainable development products showcase symposium.

STRATEGY:

Support emerging local business in the pollution control and prevention sector

- Provide incentives to businesses which produce or service pollution control and prevention products for local consumption and export.
- Assist environmental businesses already located in Hamilton-Wentworth to expand and attract business.
- Establish a community task force to examine new and appropriate land uses of available vacant industrial sites in the Bayfront.
- Assist local business, to export quality of life products, such as water, air, and soil quality technologies, strategies and recycling programs developed in the Region.
- Encourage and support research and development activities of local businesses, especially those involved in environmental products.
- Assist companies in obtaining grants from the "Green Plan" to fund initiatives and projects.
- Create a centralized resource centre which identifies the types of initiatives already underway in Hamilton-Wentworth.
- Develop small business and research/production process incubators.

STRATEGY:

Emphasize science and technology as a key to future economic growth.

- Establish an organization responsible for the advancement of science and technology in the community.
- Support the work underway by the Hamilton Public Library, the Region, and the Business Advisory Centre to establish a Technology Transfer and Diffusion Unit.
- Encourage local school boards of education to promote courses and careers in science and technology.
- Continue implementation of the Greater Hamilton Technology Enterprise Centre.

STRATEGY:

Diversify the economic base of Hamilton-Wentworth

- Target specific sectors in the Economic Strategy (i.e. world leadership in pollution control, and waste reduction, management and recycling).
- Encourage the Province of Ontario to locate the Ministry of the Environment and other provincial ministries in Hamilton-Wentworth.
- Encourage the development of small cottage-type and work at home industries.
- Encourage development of business alliances based on existing strengths in the community, in order to develop products for the world market.
- Develop a "work at home computer network" linking resources from McMaster University, Mohawk College, and the Canada Centre for Inland Waters.

6.2 Agriculture and the Rural Economy

GOALS

Promote sustainable farming techniques.

Make agriculture a viable economic activity in Hamilton-Wentworth.

STRATEGY:

Improve the economic viability of farming as a livelihood

- Revise appropriate regulations to provide greater flexibility in allowing roadside produce stands.
- Allow the processing of farm products to occur on-farm.
- Encourage the establishment of local farmer's markets in every Area Municipality.
- Request the Federal Government to revise the existing farm support system to pay farmers to be managers of the land and practice soil conservation measures.
- Revise the existing property tax system to establish a relationship between the land and rural property and tax according to the "benefit of taxation" principle. Tax only residential component of the farm.
- Establish more flexible food purchasing and inspection procedures to allow farmers the opportunity to sell directly to local food stores.
- Encourage local grocery stores to buy local produce.
- Promote a change in consumer attitudes to accept higher food prices.
- Request the Province of Ontario to maintain existing exemptions in labour laws for agriculture.
- Establish a Farm Advisory Group to encourage adoption of business processes and practices by farmers.
- Establish a group or agency to facilitate cooperative ventures among local farmers.

- Integrate into the Region's Economic Strategy a section of Agriculture which outlines actions and programs to enhance agricultural viability, and which are reflected in allocation of Regional budgets and staffing.
- Involve the Economic Development Department in instructing, assisting, and guiding farmers on how to manage, sell, promote, and market their operations and products.
- Encourage the use of corn and other agricultural products for the production of fuel.
- Establish and promote farm tour and vacation opportunities.
- Promote local farm organizations through an annual farm fest celebration.
- Encourage the Province of Ontario to create a new Ministry of Rural Affairs which would oversee the rural areas of the Province and bring together the relevant elements of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farming, the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Natural Resources and therefore result in a single agency capable of dealing with the diversity of rural issues.
- Encourage local supermarkets to establish a local produce section.
- Encourage the development of local food processing operations which use local produce.
- The Public Health Department should develop a promotional campaign highlighting the personal health benefits and local economic benefits of eating locally grown organic food.

STRATEGY:

Promote sustainable / ecological farming techniques and practices

- Encourage the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, and the Conservation Authorities to promote soil conservation measures in agricultural operations in Hamilton-Wentworth.
- Require all farm operations to follow conservation/sustainable farming practices.

- Support the concept of farm environmental plans. The significance of this type of proposal to sustainable farming is obvious but in order to be workable emphasis must be placed on the specific nature of farm operations so that "tailor-made" solutions will become the norm, instead of standard across the board approaches. Also the "farmer helping farmer" aspect contained in the report is seen as a critical element by the Implementation Team. The Province should assist in the implementation of this concept but there must also be input from the Federation of Agriculture and other associated farm organizations.
- Provide the farmer with clear information as to how sustainable agriculture will benefit the farming operations and the farm community as a whole. This could be accomplished by a pamphlet of information from O.M.A.F., Federation of Agriculture, or other farm groups.
- Encourage local school boards to develop courses on agriculture, farming, and food production.
- Encourage local school boards to expand the existing program of classroom tours to farms and food processing operations.
- Expand people's awareness about farming by having the Economic Development Department:
 - prepare regular publications highlighting the agricultural sector;
 - prepare a publication listing all "pick your own" farm operations;
 - prepare a calendar of local agricultural activities and news; and
 - encourage local media to prepare a periodic focus on agriculture and the rural community.
- Establish an advisory committee for Regional Council on rural/agriculture issues.



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